



LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE  
& RUTLAND

## **The Violence Reduction Network (VRN)**

### **Youth Involvement Fund**

Information and Guidance



## About the Violence Reduction Network (VRN)

The Violence Reduction Network (VRN) is an alliance of organisations, groups and communities that believe violence is preventable and through working together in tackling its root causes, we can make Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland safer for our young people and communities.

Our mission is:

‘to achieve ‘prevention through connection’ by building an inclusive, collaborative and courageous Network which will drive the short and long-term change required to successfully tackle the causes and consequences of violence’.

Central to our approach is our commitment to ensuring communities and young people are empowered to influence all aspects of the partnership’s work and to play their role in preventing violence.

More information about the VRN can be found here: [www.violencereductionnetwork.co.uk](http://www.violencereductionnetwork.co.uk)

## About this Fund

We are looking for voluntary and community sector organisations to work with us over a six-month period to increase the involvement of young people (11-24 years) in the VRN partnership whilst simultaneously co-producing a sustainable Youth Involvement Framework designed *by* young people *for* young people. It is important that you are already embedded in local communities and regularly working with groups of young people, including those most affected by violence and other related issues. You will be passionate about the strengths and potential of young people and have a track record of providing participation and involvement opportunities which have a demonstrable impact on the design and delivery of your work. A willingness to work closely with the VRN central team and the other successful providers is critical. We are determined and ambitious in our mission and believe close collaboration is essential to success.

*What do we hope to achieve?*

This initiative has the dual aim of increasing involvement opportunities for young people whilst also co-producing a sustainable Youth Involvement Framework which will drive future work. We hope to achieve the following:

- Delivery of a range of tangible youth involvement activity focusing on agreed topics related to violence, its causes and solutions to share knowledge, generate debate, gather insights and shape responses.
- Development of a community-based Youth Forum for Violence Prevention
- Creation of a Youth Involvement Framework which specifies how the VRN partnership engages and involves young people in the future.
- Co-production of material for campaigns such as ‘Make a Stand Against Violence’ and our resource website for young people ([www.livesafe.org.uk](http://www.livesafe.org.uk)) to increase their relevance to young people and their reach.
- Involvement in regional and national initiatives to broaden the platform and young people’s influence on the system.



We will meet with successful providers at the beginning (and throughout) the project to shape the above and provide a forum to share knowledge and ensure join-up in approach and activity where appropriate. Evaluation, led by the VRN team, will be embedded into the project and successful providers will be expected to engage in and facilitate this. It is anticipated that towards the end of the project we will hold an event (or series of events) to showcase the work undertaken and to maximise the voice and influence young people in and beyond the VRN partnership. We very much hope that many young people, as well as the successful providers, will continue to be part of the VRN partnership beyond this project.

### ***How much funding is available?***

£50,000 has been allocated to this fund. Organisations can apply for grants up to the value of £10,000.

### ***Who can apply?***

We are interested in hearing from organisations which are already embedded in a local community (or communities) and regularly work with young people including those most affected by violence and other related issues. Experience of involving young people in the design and delivery of projects is also important.

Only one application per organisation is allowed.

Applicants are advised to check the eligibility statement and detail of the Funding Agreements to ensure that they can comply with the terms and conditions associated with the funding. The funding Agreements can be found with the application documents.

### ***What can the funding be used for?***

The funding can be used for a variety of costs including staffing, activities and other incentives for young people, venue rental and refreshments, publicity, educational material and training (please note the VRN will provide some training relating to violence and bystander approaches).

The funding cannot be used to cover capital costs (e.g. purchasing of buildings, construction, equipment other than basic delivery equipment)

### ***What is the application process?***

The application process will open on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November and the deadline for submissions will be on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm . All documents related to the application process can be found on the VRN website.

The process involves the following steps:

1. Interested parties must first complete the Eligibility Statement, if marked 'Yes' against all criteria, then applicants can progress to and complete an Application Form. Both the Eligibility Statement and the Application Form should be submitted by email to the Violence Reduction Network via email to [vrn@leics.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:vrn@leics.pcc.pnn.gov.uk) Please ensure you follow the instructions on the application form and adhere to the word count.
2. You will receive confirmation that we have received your application within 48 hours of receipt.



- An internal panel will score each question within your application using the criteria outlined below. Scores will be totalled and applications ranked. Please note that we do need to ensure that we reach a diverse range of young people across the communities of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland so this may also be taken into account when selecting between applications.

Score	Criteria
0	The response did not meet any of the requirements
1	The response did not meet the requirements, but had some detail and/or evidence.
2	The response meets the basic requirements but could have been expanded upon with a little more detail and/or evidence.
3	The response meets the requirements with relevant detail and clear evidence
4	The response meets the requirements with relevant detail, strong evidence and additional supporting content.
<i>Please note: Each question has a weighting, either 'High', 'Medium' or 'Low' (to determine which weighting applies, please refer to the questions in the application form).</i>	

- If successful, applicants will receive an email which will state that the funding application has been agreed, the level of funding, and setting out the next steps. Unsuccessful applicants will receive an email stating that their application has not been successful and an offer of feedback will be given. We expect to be able to notify applicants in early December 2021.

#### ***If I am successful what are the next steps?***

If you are successful you will receive a funding agreement. We will request that your organisation promptly signs the agreement and returns it to the VRN. We will also organise an initial meeting with all successful providers to discuss further how we will work together to achieve the aims of the project.

Once we are in receipt of the funding agreement we will make arrangements to transfer the funding into your nominated bank account. Funding will be paid up front at the beginning of the delivery period.

Projects awarded funding will be required to capture and report monitoring information. This will include capturing information on the number of people engaged and information needed to evaluate outputs and outcomes.

It is also likely that there will be some communication activity to promote the project to stakeholders across the area. A communication plan will be drawn up by the VRN team in partnership with providers.

#### ***What if I have any questions?***

You can contact David O'Ribbins [david.ohanlon-ribbins@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:david.ohanlon-ribbins@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk) or Sumaya Bihi [Sumaya.Bihi8801@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Sumaya.Bihi8801@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk) for additional information and support with the application process